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* BIG P.L.A.F. OFFENSIVES IN DA NANG—CHU LAI SECTOR: SERIOUS AMERICAN LOSSES AT U.S. BASE, MILITARY PORT AND U.S. 198th BRIGADE H.Q.

* *New Disasters of U.S. Riverine Units in Ben Tre Province: 36 Vessels Sunk or Burnt; 1,000 GI's Put Out of Action Nov. 9, 10 and 15.*

P.L.A.F. fighters and volunteer carriers en route to the front

* **A U.S. Puppet Entrenched Position Northwest of Tay Ninh Stormed: 7 Enemy Companies (Mostly GI's of the First Air Cavalry) Wiped Out or Decimated, 24 Armoured Cars Destroyed, and 18 Planes and Helicopters Shot Down.**

* In the Western Highlands, 400 Adverse Troops Put Out of Action, 36 Armoured Cars Destroyed and 38 Planes and Helicopters Brought Down.

U.S. SHELLING OF NORTHERN PART OF D.M.Z. CONDEMNED

THE Spokesman of the D.R.V.N. Foreign Ministry on November 21 sternly condemned the U.S. for wantonly shelling Vinh Son, Vinh Quang and Vinh Giang villages in the northern part of the demilitarized zone, on the D.R.V.N. territory, on November 16, 17, 20 and 21, 1968 from the southern part of the D.M.Z. and from U.S. warships off the Cua Viet rivermouth.

The Foreign Ministry Spokesman stressed:

"These are extremely brazen provocative acts of the U.S. which grossly encroached upon the sovereignty and security of the D.R.V.N. and further prove that the U.S. imperialists have not given up their aggressive design against Viet Nam. The U.S. must put an end to the aforesaid war acts, and must bear full responsibility for all the consequences arising therefrom".

TO DRIVE THE AGGRESSORS OUT OF VIET NAM IS ITS PEOPLE'S SACRED AND INVIOLABLE SELF-DEFENCE RIGHT

IN an interview granted to the *Giai Phong* News Agency about the November 13, 1968 declaration of the U.S. State Department Spokesman, the Spokesman of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation's Commission for External Relations gave the following comment:

After having been forced to put an unconditional end to the war of destruction against the D.R.V.N. and agree to a conference in which would participate the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the United States and the Saigon administration, to seek a political solution to the Viet Nam problem, the U.S.A. has been carrying on illegal reconnaissance flights over North Viet Nam while concentrating air and naval forces for intensified barbarous bombings in South Viet Nam and piling up more bloody crimes against our people. As everybody knows, the U.S.A. talks about "peace" and "negotiation" but in fact keeps on escalating its war of aggression with a view to maintaining its neo-colonialist yoke on the people of South Viet Nam, prpetuating the division of Viet Nam and undermining peace and security in Indochina, Asia and the world.

The November 13 declaration of the U.S. State Department Spokesman is but a trick to divert the attention of public opinion, supply pretexts for delaying the quadripartite conference, and camouflage U.S. aggressive designs. It will deceive nobody; it only throws a more vivid light on U.S. stubbornness and bellicosity, which remain unmarred by its serious defeats.

To drive the aggressors out of the country is the Vietnamese people's sacred and inviolable right for self-defence. The U.S. has no right to demand an end to the South Vietnamese people's struggle, in exchange for a halt in U.S. bombing of the North. It must instead cease its aggression in Viet Nam, withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and let the South Vietnamese people settle their own affairs in accordance with the programme of the South Viet Nam

(Continued page 7)

28th ANNIVERSARY OF NAM KY UPRISING COMMEMORATED IN HANOI

ON the evening of Nov. 21, a grand meeting was held in Hanoi under the auspices of the C.C. of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, the South Viet Nam N.F.L. Permanent Representation in Hanoi and the Hanoi Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front to commemorate the 28th anniversary of the uprising of Nam Ky (former name of present Nam Bo).

"Twenty eight years ago today", said Ton Duc Thang, President of the Presidium of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front C.C., in his opening address, "for the independence and freedom of the Fatherland, our compatriots in Nam Bo gallantly rose up in arms against the French colonialists allied with the Japanese fascists, making a brilliant show of the indomitability and heroism of our people.

"Over the past 28 years, under the clear-sighted leadership of our Party and beloved President Ho Chi Minh, the 31 million Vietnamese have not ceased promoting the indomitable spirit of the Nam Ky uprising and have successively defeated the Japanese fascists, the French colonialists and the U.S. imperialist aggressors, writing the most glorious pages in our history".

Hoang Quoc Viet, member of the C.C. of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and member of the Presidium of the C.C. of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, underlined the great significance of this memorable event and exalted the victories won in quick succession by our people in these 28 years. "Our victorious resistance to U.S. aggression for national salvation", he said, "eloquently proves that in our era, a people not large in size from a country not great in area, and with an undeveloped economy, but closely united and resolved to fight along a correct line, are fully capable of defeating any aggressor, be it U.S. imperialism."

Nguyen Phu Soai, deputy head of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. Permanent Representation in Hanoi, highlighted the spirit of unflagging struggle of our compatriots in the South, the feelings and the indissoluble bonds which unite North and South in the struggle for the independence and freedom of the Fatherland. Acclaiming the glorious victories won by the North and the South in the present war of resistance against U.S. aggression for national salvation and denouncing Washington's bellicosity and obstinacy, cruelty and perfidy, he reiterated the determination of the armed forces and people of the South to successfully accomplish the sacred task incumbent on our people at present and clearly defined by President Ho Chi Minh in his recent appeal to the nation. "Fired by the victories already won and fully confident of final victory", the representative of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. said, "the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam pledge themselves to further enhance the indomitable spirit of the Nam Bo insurrection, uphold the tradition of unity in struggle of our people and devote all their hearts and bend all their energies to strictly executing President Ho Chi Minh's order: "so long as a single aggressor remains on our soil, we must continue our fight to wipe him out".

The meeting passed a resolution which stated among other things, "To fulfil this heavy but glorious task, the 17 million North Vietnamese are resolved to step up the patriotic emulation movement, build socialism, work might and main for the accomplishment of the North's obligations as the great rear towards the great front-line, constantly heighten vigilance, strengthen economic and defence potentials, stand ever ready to fight and to foil all enemy new plots and, together with the 14 million Southern fellow countrymen, fight U.S. aggression until final victory."

NFL Delegation's Activities in Paris

ACCORDING to the N.F.L. Information Bureau in Paris, the delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation to the preparatory meetings of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam led by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh arrived at Le Bourget airport amidst a sea of flags and banners of welcome. French woman writer Madeleine Riffaud said the welcome was meant for fighters who are fighting with arms in hands for a just cause. Mrs. Jacqueline Gelly, Secretary General of the French Women's Union, said the occasion was a double honour for French women. Both spoke out the feelings of the French women present at the airport that day.

As the delegation alighted from the plane, thousands of Vietnamese nationals in Paris scrambled for the privilege to present bouquets to them and shake hands with Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh or at least to get a look at their representatives. They chanted slogans tirelessly and waved flags of the Front until the N.F.L. delegates motocade had left the airport escorted by French guards on motobicycles.

That night, 1,000 representatives of various segments of the French people held a welcome rally under the motto: "The French people are standing at the side of Viet Nam". André Sousquière, Secretary General of the French Peace Movement, reflected the French people's view of the N.F.L. in these terms: "The Front is the genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people. The Front comes from the people. It is the people themselves. There lies i strength".

On the afternoon of N Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh held her first news conference in Paris. More than 200 journalists, reporters, film-makers, photographers and T. V. reporters of France and other countries attended. Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh made it clear that the Front had become a de facto administration commanding wide prestige in the country and in the world arena. The Front is therefore by right one of the four parties to the conference, an independent delegation equal to the others. She underlined the good will and earnestness of the Front, which found expression in its acceptance to participate in the conference.

On Nov. 6, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh issued a press communique stating that the N.F.L. was ready to take part in the quadripartite conference scheduled for Nov-6. She said the U.S. side must bear full responsibility for the delay of the conference.

On the evening of Nov. 11, the N.F.L. delegation attended a meeting organized by patriotic Vietnamese residents in Paris to celebrate the victories of the Vietnamese people and welcome the N.F.L. delegation to the Paris conference. The audience consisted of 2,500 representatives of Vietnamese nationals. Speaking on the occasion, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh thanked the Vietnamese residents for their reception and conveyed to them cordial greetings from President Nguyen Huu Tho and the 14 millions South Vietnamese. She urged the Vietnamese residents in France to close their ranks and contribute their best to the common struggle of the entire Vietnamese people to defeat the enemy and fulfil the glorious task of the nation.

On the afternoon of Nov. 12, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh paid a courtesy call to Monsieur Herve Alphand, Secretary General of the French Foreign Ministry. The interview took place in a friendly atmosphere.

On the morning of Nov. 13, Duong Dinh Thao, a member of the N.F.L. delegation, held a press conference in Paris. He denounced the dilatory manoeuvres of the U.S. side which is responsible for the delay of the conference. He also condemned U.S. step-up of its war of aggression in South Viet Nam in an attempt to improve its passive position. He pointed out that the Thieu Ky Huong clique was a group opposed to peace, independence, freedom and democracy and favouring prolonging of the U.S. war of aggression. He concluded: "If the Saigon administration persists in refusing to send its representative to Paris, the three parties, namely the N.F.L., the D.R.V.N. and the U.S. should go ahead with the talks to seek a political solution to the Viet Nam problem".

On Nov. 14, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh and Tran Van Tu, adviser of the delegation, called on the "National Committee of Actions for the Victory of the Vietnamese people" in Paris. Waldech Rochet, President of the Committee, and Georges Marchais, Louis Bailot, François Hilsum, Henri Martin and Mrs. Madeleine Riffaud, members of the Committee, gave them a warm reception. The S.V.N. chief delegate expressed thanks for the active support given by the French people and the "National Committee of Actions for the Victory of the Vietnamese people" to the Vietnamese people's war of resistance against U.S. aggression and for national salvation.

HANOI PRESS OPINION

A VALUELESS PROPOSAL

THE traitor Nguyen Van Thieu advanced on Nov. 8 his "peace formula". He claims that the Paris conference should be attended by two parties: the one led by the Saigon puppet administration and including the U.S. and the so-called "other allied forces, if necessary", the other composed of our Government and the South Viet Nam N.F.L. which Thieu brazenly calls "forces annexed to North Viet Nam".

Needless to say that this proposal has not a shred of value. It only shows the obstinacy and impudence of the U.S. lackey clique of Nguyen Van Thieu who, while denying the N.F.L. the genuine representation of the South Vietnamese people, want to arrogate to themselves the principal role as negotiators at the Paris conference. Not only does this proposal run counter to President Johnson's decision to accept the N.F.L. as interlocutor but it turns topsy-turvy the precedence order between them — the valets who must follow their bosses to Paris and the U.S. which they now pretend to lead.

With such a brazen proposal, the Thieu Ky Huong clique have exposed their true colours as reactionaries. Before public opinion, they prove themselves to be the main impediment to the quadripartite conference in Paris. The U.S. Government should be held responsible for such a sabotage.

Nhan Dan (People)
Nov. 10, 1968

NEW VICTORY OF JAPANESE DEMOCRATIC FORCES

THE election on Nov. 10 of the Chobyo Yara, Chairman of the Okinawa Teachers' Association, as Chief Executive of the Ryukyu Government, is a big success of the democratic forces in Ryukyu.

The success of this election is due first of all to the strong support of more than 930,000 people in Okinawa and the Japanese people as a whole who resolutely oppose the scheme of the United States and the Sato Government to prolong the U.S. occupation of Okinawa.

This success constitutes a heavy blow dealt at the U.S. and the Japanese reactionary circles who are tailing after the U.S. imperialists whose objective is to maintain the colonialist domination in Okinawa, turn this area into a forward base for aggression in Viet Nam, and trample upon the independence, security and peace of Japan.

The Vietnamese people follow with deep sympathy and fully support the heroic struggle of the Okinawa people and the Japanese people as a whole against U.S. imperialism and the Japanese reactionary ruling circles. They welcome the new success recorded by the democratic forces in Okinawa and Japan as a whole and consider it as their own. They firmly believe that the Japanese democratic forces and people will win yet greater victories and move toward liberating Okinawa and achieving an independent, peaceful, democratic and neutral Japan.

Nhan Dan (People)
Nov. 13, 1968

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH RECEIVES A QUANG NINH MINERS' DELEGATION

ON Nov. 15, 1968, a delegation comprising 30 workers and cadres of the Quang Ninh colliery came to report to President Ho Chi Minh, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers Party and the Government the successes obtained by their enterprises in the area in carrying out the state plan.

In his talk to the workers and cadres, associating coal production with the fight against foreign aggression, President Ho called on them to show a great revolutionary zeal and ardent patriotism, and to overcome all difficulties in order to boast coal production higher. "Only in this way", he said, "can you prove really worthy of our Southern compatriots and fighters who are fighting with heroism against the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen". The President also urged them to organize a better anti-aircraft defence and to remain at all times vigilant and combat-ready.

OVER the past years, while carrying out production abreast with the fighting, we have designed a way of life suitable to the war time conditions. It is an expression of our resolve to fight and defeat U.S. aggression, and also a manifestation of the socialist virtues of our people. At this juncture, to maintain the wartime way of life is an imperative task of all of us.

This way of life has its political and ideological bases in our people's patriotism and attachment to the socialist regime. It is also the way every one of us should understand and assume the sacred duty incumbent on our entire people at the present time as made clear by President Ho Chi Minh in his recent appeal to the nation: "Stiffen our determination to fight and to win, liberate the South, defend the North and achieve the ultimate peaceful reunification of the country".

It is a necessity dictated by the fact that at the moment when our compatriots in the South still have to surmount the biggest difficulties and make the greatest sacrifices to win final victory we, for our part, must step up the building of socialism and fulfil our duty as the great rear base towards the great frontline. At the same time, we must remain on our guard and stand ready to cope with all new aggressive plots of the U.S. imperialists.

To meet all these demands, the war-time way of life must be observed in all fields of activity and all aspects of life, social and private alike. It must find expression in our work as well as in every fact of our material and moral life.

More than ever it is imperative to make this watchword permeate all aspects of our life: "For the South and for socialism, let everyone redouble his efforts". Let's promote the traditions of industriousness of our people, raise labour productivity, improve the quality of our military learning and drilling, bring into play our zeal and creativeness in work, organize our life in the most rational manner possible in order to help spare time and the productive forces of society.

In our every-day life, we should observe simplicity, economy and civilisation. The cultural, artistic and sports activities must be given a sound and revolutionary political and ideological content and take such forms as are suitable to the war-time conditions and can draw the participation of the broad masses. We must keep in good condition air-raid shelters, stabilize the life of aged people, children, cadres, workers and students who have been evacuated from the cities, undertake regular training of the people's militia and the anti-aircraft defence units, of the public security service and the first-aid medical personnel, etc...

Responding to President Ho Chi Minh's appeal, we are resolved to maintain the war-time way of life in order to contribute our best to our total victory over U.S. aggression.

Nhan Dan (The people)
Nov. 10, 1968

Miner Pham Quoc Vinh has fulfilled the 1968 first half-year plan two months and five days ahead of schedule

LET's MAINTAIN THE WAR TIME WAY OF LIFE

Set Out The Enemy and Hit Him

Editor's note — The following story relates a battle put up against U.S. air marauders by young militia-women of Quang Binh province prior to the bombing halt. It gives an idea of the intensity of U.S. air attacks against the provinces between the 19th and 17th parallels after the March 31, 1968 announcement of the so-called "limited bombing", and also of the fierce riposte by the Vietnamese people, especially of what Vietnamese women are capable in this respect.

HOA, Hoi and My came out in high spirits of the office of the Party's village committee. They had just got the consent of the men in charge to the new site for their machineguns.

They had good reasons for the new choice. Their unit, composed of seven young girls in their twenties, had not been able to bag any enemy aircraft since it was set up several months ago. Once, they did hit an F.105 and every one in the village could see the craft flying West-ward, with a flaming trail. However, since it crashed on the other side of the mountain, the district military committee which could not locate the place of the crash did not record this exploit of theirs.

The enemy was very cunning. Their planes often changed altitudes and also the directions of attack. They also tried to take advantage of the ruggedness of the terrain to avoid the militia groundfire. Five times the girls had changed their fighting positions, yet still no plane had been shot down. This time, they decided to move their anti-aircraft guns to a most exposed and most frequently raided but which offered the enemy only one direction of attack. That was a very bold idea that had to get the green light from the Party Committee.

THE R.F.100 spotter plane circled again and again over the new and well camouflaged gun-site. The sun, the heat and especially the hot west wind which raised clouds of dust every now and then, did not, however, interfere with the militia girls' close watch on every movement of the enemy plane. At the end of its eight circles, the latter suddenly zoomed and nose dived, only to climb again without dropping nothing. "That was a show five," Hoi said to her comrades.

The plane now made a wider circle then suddenly dived again and flew off quickly. A smoke shell burst near the gunsite and a flight of F.4 and F.105 swarmed in. There were eleven of them in all.

"It's going to be tough fighting, girls", Hoa, commander of the unit, warned her mates. "Be calm and take good aim".

The planes began to dive in pair, releasing demolition and steel-pellet bombs and firing rockets and 20mm cannon shells. Practically the whole village came out of air-raid shelters and looked in anguish in the direction of the militia gunsite wrapped now in a thick cloud of smoke and dust. Every-one felt his heart sink when a bomb exploded and gave a sigh a relief each time the machineguns crackled.

Having dropped all their bomb loads, the planes thundered away. Dust and smoke cleared off. The brave girls were unscathed and the target on which the enemy had concentrated their attacks — a small stranded boat on the river — was still there.

MOMENTS later, the RF.100 came back. Again it fired a smoke shell and the fighter-bombers roared in. There were more than a score of them this time. The seven militia girls remained at their fighting post, firm, unruffled. Four F.4s dived abreast. My aimed at the fourth, and at the order shouted by Hoa, let off a long burst. She was about to fire a second when she felt a sharp pain in her left wrist. She leant against the gun and continued to press the trigger. But she failed to do so as she felt dizzy and collapsed. As Hoa rushed to her help, My said: "Go and take over the command. Don't worry about me. I'll be allright soon".

The bombers struck more furiously and more extensively. Houses were blazing all around. Pointing her finger to the village in flames, Hoa cried: "Look at our burning houses, and don't miss the enemy".

A new flight of F.4s screeched in. The leading plane climbed up then dived. At the first order from Hoa, a machinegun burst went up. The enemy plane caught fire before it could empty a whole salvo of 20mm rounds, lost balance and crashed.

The American and Puppets Fight Last-ditch Struggle

(by C.L. from South Viet Nam)

Editor's Note : *U.S. aggression in Viet Nam is irretrievably doomed, especially since the Tết generalized offensives and concerted uprisings. The unconditional ending of all bombardments against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam as from November 1st provides a further proof of this failure. C.L., the well-known NFL commentator, has just written an article giving a comprehensive picture of the situation now obtaining in Viet Nam, which gives the reader elements to arrive at the same conclusion. We are pleased to print it in* Viet Nam Courier *at full length.*

C.L's article comprises three parts, totaling 3,500 words. In the first part, the author deals with the various aspects of U.S. defeat and their meaning. In the second part, he exposes Washington's political and military scheming in South Viet Nam. In the third part, he gives an analysis of the puppet which is the unavoidable fiasco of the U.S. neo-colonialist undertaking.

I. U.S. FAILURE APPARENT

AS their objective is to police the world, the U.S. imperialists from an early date have scanned the 5 continents in search of a foothold and have laid their aggressive hands on many countries of the world. The American colonialists had designs on Viet Nam when the French imperialists were still in control of Indochina. They wanted to seize our country and turn it into a military base to control the whole of Southeast Asia and a springboard to attack the Socialist Camp from the East. At the same time, they wanted to use our country as a testing ground for their neo-colonialist system and their "special war" strategy.

Utterly subjective, stubborn and cruel by nature, the U.S. aggressors thought that with their huge economic and military potentials as the world's leading capitalist power and with all their awful reputation as international gendarme, they could make other people bow to the power of their armada and dollar. They wrongly believed that it would be for them child's play to impose their sway on Viet Nam, a country small in size and in population, with a backward economy and subjected to a hundred years of foreign domination.

But they have miscalculated. At no time have the Vietnamese people submitted themselves to any aggressor. More than that, they have never allowed any aggressor to freely ride rough shod upon their homeland. Fat prize as it seems to the American sharks, Viet Nam is a hard nut to crack. Once having had a bite at it, they find that it is not easy to manage.

In the last two decades, the Yankee imperialist colossus has suffered a series of defeats at the hands of the Vietnamese people. While the French colonialists were getting a sound beating from our people, the U.S. imperialists jumped in to give them a shot in the arm and to defray 80 per cent of the military cost for them in an effort to break our Resistance. In 1954, however, our sacred Resistance War ended in victory and North Viet Nam was completely liberated. The bitter setback inflicted on the French colonialists was concurrently a stinging blow at the U.S. aggressors. This was the first U.S. disaster in Viet Nam.

After the signing of the Geneva Agreements, the U.S. imperialists hurriedly ousted the French and installed the Ngo Dinh Diem stooge administration, in a bid to realise neo-colonialism through the agency of a dictatorial regime in South Viet Nam. The local people, however, foiled all U.S.-Diem machiavellian manoeuvres and smashed their fascist dictatorship while giving a new impetus to their revolutionary struggle. This was the second U.S. failure in Viet Nam.

Confronted with the mounting revolutionary movement in the South, the U.S. aggressor had to wage a 'special war' to maintain their domination with the help of a U.S. - equipped, paid and trained puppet army. The South Vietnamese people rose up again and, combining political and armed struggle, thoroughly defeated the U.S. 'special war'. This was the third U.S. discomfiture in Viet Nam.

The collapse of the puppet army and administration being imminent, in 1965, the U.S. aggressors committed combat troops en masse to a local war in South Viet Nam, hoping to save their lackeys and turn the tide. Their first 1965-66 strategic dry-season counter - offensive involving 200,000 troops came to a flop. Their second 1966-67 strategic dry-season counter-offensive deploying 400,000 troops met with even bigger unsuccess. In the 1967-68 dry season with half a million U.S. and satellite troops plus over half a million puppet troops, the U.S. aggressor found themselves unable to launch any new strategic counter - offensive and, instead, had to limit their activities to their two prongs —search-and-destroy and pacification—already crippled by the blows of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people. This was the 4th U.S. reverse in Viet Nam.

Hard hit in the South, the U.S. aggressors sought to parry the blow by striking the North. They launched a war of destruction against North Viet Nam hoping to undermine our people's socialist construction and stop the flow of its assistance to the South. Rung after rung, they recklessly escalated the war but fell short of all their objectives. More than 3,200 of their latest-model aircraft bit the dust along with the so-called U.S. air superiority. Faced with the tough resistance of our 17 million compatriots, they had to accept their ignominious defeat. This was the 5th U.S. fiasco in Viet Nam.

From these hard facts, we can draw the following conclusions :

1. — The U.S. imperialists are very stubborn, brutal and wicked. Bent on conquering our country, they have resorted to all perfidious manoeuvres. Despite their heavy setbacks, they remain rash and bellicose as they try to hang on to the Southern part of our country by the most vicious and atrocious means. It is clear that they will not change their spots and that they are hatching new plots to annex our country. Tougher and fiercer fighting is in store for our armed forces and people and the nearer the victory, the greater the hardships and difficulties.

2. — U.S. material strength is considerable but very limited and spread thin all over the world, and much more limited on the Viet Nam battlefield. It cannot be brought into play because the morale of the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys is excessively low and their political backing is critically weak, which is the inevitable product of a wholly unjust war. The U.S. aggressors can in no way fill the bottomless moral gap with their material strength. Therefore, the more they prolong and widen the war, the more seriously their economic and military potentials will weaken, the more their political and moral defects will increase and the more setbacks they will sustain. And each failure has always been more disastrous than the previous one. This has become a law in their aggression in Viet Nam.

3. — As for the Vietnamese people in general and the South Vietnamese people in particular, with an absolutely sound and creative political and military line, with their unshakable determination to resist U.S. aggression and save the country, with the miraculous strength of people's war brought into play daily and hourly by the shining justice of their cause and with the approval and support of the socialist camp and the whole of progressive mankind, they have successively foiled all U.S. strategic schemes and been winning ever greater successes and are fully capable of defeating the U.S. imperialists in all circumstances to achieve final victory.

These realities have substantiated an axiom of our era. They have not only fired our people forward but also given a strong stimulus to all peoples fighting against imperialism for genuine independence and freedom.

U.S. failure is obvious. Its defeat is plain to the world. Only the gun-dealers in the White House and the Pentagon turn a blind eye to a truth admitted by everybody including the *Christian Science Monitor* which wrote in its April 27, 1968 issue that Viet Nam has now become a place where generals, governors and ambassadors had lost their fame and U.S. military strategies had been buried.

Next issue :
II. Washington political and military scheming in South Viet Nam.

FRESH HEINOUS CRIMES BY U.S. AGGRESSORS AND HENCHMEN

IN Oct. and early Nov. the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys carried out cold-blooded massacres of the South Vietnamese people, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported.

On Oct. 14, in one hamlet (Tu My) and one village (Son Loc) of Quang Ngai province alone, 56 people were killed or wounded by B52 bombing. More particularly, Rao village, many times was the target of 136 B52 bombing sorties between Oct. 14 and Oct. 20, and suffered 87 casualties.

Similar raids were mounted along Highway N° 14, in Ben Cat district, Thu Dau Mot province. In nearly a month from late Sept. to Oct., B52's daily dumped an average of 500 tons of bombs on 3 villages in this region.

Along with these bombings, G.I.'s and U.S. henchmen murdered civilians ruthlessly during their sweeps. On Oct. 22, U.S. troops and Pak Jung Hi mercenaries swarmed into Xuyen Hiep village, Quang Nam province, conducted a house-to-house search, herded villagers into shelters then threw grenades into them. Thirty people were killed and many others wounded.

Inhabitants of P. Baktu village, 15 km South of An Khe, were also victims of such military atrocities. On Sept. 16, U.S. aggressors and their lackeys rushed into the villages when people were out doing farm work. Only old persons, mothers with babies and little children remained behind. The raiders undertook a house-to-house search and opened up, killing or wounding 25 people. All the wounded were afterwards given the finishing stroke with daggers. All the 25 bodies were soaked with petrol then set on fire along with all dwellings in the village.

A Sa.m. on November 9 U.S. aircraft hotly pursued, strafed and sank a motor - boat with passengers onboard en route from Hoa Dong District town to Tan Thoi village. Among the dead were Mme Le Thi Va, 50, mother of sergeant Vo Van Tam, of the puppet army, and Miss Anh who was going to visit her older brother, a soldier of puppet Division 7.

These crimes once again exposed the aggressive, bellicose and barbarous nature of the U.S. aggressors and Saigon puppets. The South Vietnamese people will not let the criminals come away with it.

WHY IS SAIGON ADMINISTRATION IRREMEDIABLY DOOMED ?

THE U.S. imperialists' policy of creating a stooge administration in South Viet Nam has been prompted by their strategic considerations over different periods.

By the middle of 1965 the U.S. recklessly committed its troops en masse to a "local war" in South Viet Nam. However, since this "local war" still retained a neo-colonialist character, the building and consolidation of a puppet administration was a prime necessity for the U.S. After engineering a series of putsches, counter-putsches and "purges" to select their most loyal henchmen the U.S. imperialists allowed the "Young Turks" led by Nguyen Van Thieu and Nguyen Cao Ky to seize power. By means of a coup on June 11th, 1965 the Thieu-Ky group set up a military dictatorship and grasped all powers in their hands. Later, through rigged elections of the "national assembly," "president" and "vice-president," the U.S. tried to give the Thieu-Ky regime a veneer of "democracy" and "constitutionality."

However, faced with the growing opposition of the South Vietnamese people, U.S. "local war" landed in an impasse, drawing in its wake the attempt to instal a "viable" puppet regime. The latter's "independence and "democracy" signboards were torn down by the very presence of a U.S. expeditionary army that had been indulging in the massacres of South Vietnamese. The Thieu-Ky regime has barred itself as a group of blood-thirsty warlords who have failed to rally even the reactionary forces to serve the purposes of U.S. strategy. Its increasing crankiness has been aggravated by the incurable gaping wounds inflicted on it by the South Viet Nam P.L.A.F. and people since the beginning of the generalized offensives and widespread uprisings early this Spring. While at the village level its has practically broken down, at the district and provincial levels it has also become rickety. The personnel of the puppet administration at grassroots level who have seen the traitorous nature of the ringleaders and the strength of the mass uprisings as well as the correct policies of the N.F.L., have been crossing over in increasing numbers to the people's side. The emergence of the Viet Nam Alliance of National Democratic and Peace Forces has further illustrated the urban population's strong abhorrence of the Thieu-Ky regime and resolve to overthrow it.

Recently, the U.S. was forced to halt unconditionally the bombing and shelling on the whole territory of North Viet Nam and to accept talks in Paris with the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. However, the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique remains stubborn and still refuses to take part in the negotiations to restore peace on the basis of the realisation of the fundamental rights of the Vietnamese people. They don't want U.S. bombs to stop falling on the Vietnamese people ; they oppose the most urgent aspirations of the people in both parts of the country and the whole progressive mankind.

Their reactionary stance and stubborn desire to prolong the war has triggered an unheard-of wave of indignation among the population of Saigon and other South Viet Nam cities. Many papers in Saigon have openly stigmatized the puppet regime for "having delayed the peace talks in Paris" and voiced their "support for a coalition government". Many teach-ins have also taken place in which the participants welcomed the proposals of the N.F.L. and the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, urged the Saigon regime to end the war immediately and restore peace, and demanded resignation of the Thieu-Ky-Huong war cabinet, formation of a "peace cabinet", and talks with the N.F.L.

The fate of the puppet clique is hung by a thread.

THE failure and irremediable collapse of the Saigon puppet regime is a logical development which stems from many causes, first and foremost from the valiant fight of the 14 million South Vietnamese.

The U.S. imperialists have chosen the wrong time and the wrong place for the realisation of their neo-colonialist policy. They set foot on South Viet Nam in very unfavourable circumstances. They have come to a land with a long tradition of struggle and have bumped against a heroic people who accomplished the August Revolution in 1945 and fought a victorious war of resistance against the French invaders. The South Vietnamese are endowed with a high national and democratic spirit, profound political awareness and abundant experiences in combat. Moreover, they have enjoyed real independence and freedom and the right to be genuine masters of their destiny brought by the revolution. No wonder in their eyes all pretences of "nationalism", "independence" or "freedom" put up by the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen are only clumsy and floppy farces. The U.S. has put to use in South Viet Nam all its neo-colonialist tricks such as "psywar", "pacification" programme and "free elections". But none of these political contrivances has worked and in the end, facing the impetuous movement of the popular masses, the U.S. had to resort to plain war methods to keep afloat a puppet regime. But this has not succeeded either. All its barbarous methods of terror and repression have come to a flop one after another.

The failure of the puppet regime is the failure of an outdated and rotten reactionary regime in its last legs. Such a regime can in no way stand its ground when confronted with a regime of genuine democracy which is steadily developing in South Viet Nam.

THE South Vietnamese people have not only courage and a stubborn stamina, but also a correct and creative line and fighting methods. These line and methods have foiled every scheme of the enemy and enabled the revolution to move ahead at a quick pace. As early as July 1954 the South Vietnamese people had skilfully preserved their forces and made repeated counter-offensives against the enemy, though political struggles, legal and illegal, with the support of armed struggle. When the U.S. and the Ngo Dinh Diem regime turned to white terror by moving guillotines from one place to another for mass murders, the South Vietnamese people rightly concluded that the enemy had considerably weakened. Accordingly, they switched over to the offensive, mounted partial insurrections in the countryside, dealing a crushing blow at the puppet administration in hamlets and villages. This was followed by relentless attacks on the puppet regime at the grassroots, expansion of the liberated zone and seizure of power in vast rural areas.

When the U.S. massively deployed its troops of aggression to South Viet Nam, the South Vietnamese people, holding firm the offensive, fought both the U.S. and puppets, on the fronts at the same time, military, political and agitation among enemy ranks, and in all the three strategic areas : the mountain areas, the countryside and the urban centres. Since early Spring this year, the South Viet Nam liberation armed forces and people have been launching waves of generalized offensives and simultaneous uprisings, inflicting the heaviest defeats yet on the Americans and their stooges.

The success of the South Vietnamese people in smashing step by step the traitorous puppet regime is a success of the correct revolutionary line and methods over the reactionary policy of U.S. neo-colonialism.

IN South Viet Nam U.S. imperialism can never find a group of henchmen capable of implementing its neo-colonialist policy. After having kicked out the French colonialists and jumped into South Viet Nam, the U.S. imperialists resorted to the most vicious tricks to create for their "strongman" Ngo Dinh Diem a political structure. However, due to their unjust and reactionary nature, the U.S. imperialists and the Ngo Dinh Diem clique soon unveiled their predatory and traitorous colours before the Vietnamese people. In the end, the U.S. had to murder the Ngo Dinh Diem brothers and brought to power another group of henchmen. The latter, for fear of reprisals on the part of the Diem party, undertook a large-scale "purge", killing and jailing a great many followers of the former dictator and smashing to pieces the reactionary political structure he had set up, thus dealing a heavy blow at the reactionary political and military forces which the U.S. had taken great pains to build up. Ever since, in spite of its intensive efforts, the U.S. has never been able to provide a "stable" social basis for the Saigon regime. Under the impact of the people's actions, the counter-revolutionary classes have gradually lost all their positions. The landlord class which had been weakened by the August Revolution in 1945 and the anti-war resistance has further declined and its ranks have been seriously split. Except for the most reactionary minority which take sides with the aggressors, the landlords either adopt a wait-and-see attitude or come under the influence of the revolution to various extents. For their part, the comprador capitalists who are licking the boots of the aggressors to enrich themselves without political influence upon the people. Meanwhile, the middle class in the towns and cities has gradually grown alive to the national interests, and is more and more attracted by the revolution. In such conditions, the reactionary political parties created by the U.S. have almost no social foothold. For all their resounding names, these are only small groups of traitors, political careerists and notorious headsmen who make a livehood out of murder. Recently, in their death-bed throes, the Saigon clique produced a string of organisations with a variety of labels such as the "National Salvation Front", the "Force of Freedom", the "League for Social and National Revolution", the "Popular Forces Front"... All of them are only products of a U.S.-puppet conspiracy trick to hide their serious isolation and cope with the mounting revolutionary movement of the people.

In South Viet Nam, the peasantry problem bears a significance of primordial importance. This the U.S. imperialists know very well. That is why, they have made the "winning the hearts and minds" of the peasants a state policy for the puppets. But how can they attain this goal with the help of such notorious tyrannical landlords, political job-seekers and traitors as Ngo Dinh Diem, Nguyen Khanh, Nguyen Van Thieu and Nguyen Cao Ky ?

Only the National Front for Liberation can win the support of the peasantry. The Front has laid down a sound revolutionary line and effective methods of revolutionary struggle. The Front has constantly upheld the banner of democracy. Right in the midst of a fierce fight, the Front has never neglected the vital rights and interests of the people in the political, cultural as well as economic fields. Therefore, it has been able to rally all patriotic forces opposed to the U.S.-puppet regime, of which the peasants and workers form the hard core.

It is evident that the Saigon puppet administration has failed because it could not and can never build for itself a reactionary political force and a social basis strong enough to buttress it. Instead its isolation has been increasing day by day.

MOREOVER the puppet apparatus of the U.S. in South Viet Nam has been made weaker still by its internal strifes. All the henchmen of the U.S. have been pursuing great personal ambitions. When putting themselves in the service of the U.S.A. every one of them hopes to be given the monopoly of swapping the people's blood for gold. How can these horses of the same stable eating in the same manger get on with one another ? At times, the conflict among U.S. servants took open and acute form against their masters' will. This has many times caused real headaches to the U.S. In addition, the U.S. policy of using its henchmen, marked by perfidy and ingratitude, contributes to exacerbating these divergences. While giving one man a leading role on the pedestal, it keeps many others as reserve trump cards to keep him in check. As each group of the ruling capitalist class in the United States controls a group of henchmen in Saigon, it ensues that a conflict of U.S. rulers inevitably gives rise to a squabble among their subordinates in South Viet Nam.

The inescapable failure of the puppet administration of the U.S. in South Viet Nam also stems from deep-seated and chronic inner contradictions both on the part of the U.S. and its servants, contradictions inherent in their reactionary character. And faced with the total break down of their aggressive and treasonous scheme, the U.S. and the puppets are quarrelling with one another still more acrimoniously.

THE complete collapse of the Saigon puppet regime is now only a question of time. But U.S. imperialism continues very stubborn. Along its military efforts, it will use de as long as it can to breathe life into the moribund puppet regime. Therefore, the struggle of the South Vietnamese people to overthrow completely the puppet clique of traitors and win back power still has many tough battles ahead. However decrepit, a puppet regime will not die of its own. The South Vietnamese people will press their attacks on the enemy, continue their offensives and uprisings until the whole puppet apparatus has been knocked down. Whatever their "commitments" to the traitors in South Viet Nam, the U.S. imperialists connot change the fate sealed by history for all traitors to their country and nation.

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk hails President Ho Chi Minh's Appeal

SAMDECH Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia, has sent a message to President Ho Chi Minh warmly hailing his November 3, 1968 appeal.

The message, dated November 11, read in full as follows: "I have carefully read Your Excellency's Nov.3 appeal to all the Vietnamese patriots who are fighting against the U.S. aggressors. Allow me, on behalf of Cambodia as a whole, to express our great admiration for this fresh expression of the determination of a whole people who are upholding the sacred cause of national independence, and setting an example for all those who oppose imperialism and neo-colonialism.

"Together with the Khmer people, I am very happy to renew to Your Excellency and to all our Vietnamese brothers the assurances of our solidarity and support to the legitimate position of the D.R.V.N. and the N.F.L. which strive-s for an end to U.S. aggression, withdrawal of American troops from South Viet Nam, and the termination of foreign interference in the internal affairs of the Vietnamese. We wish particularly to reiterate our total support for the Political Program of the N.F.L. which is the only reasonable basis for a return of peace in South Viet Nam.

"Please accept the assurances of my highest and fraternal consideration."

THE Lao Patriotic Front (Neo Lao Haksat) held its Third National Extraordinary Congress from Oct. 25 to Nov. 1 in the liberated zone of Sam Neua province, *Khaosan Pathet Lao* announced. The meeting was convened to work out measures to strengthen national union with a view to the complete defeat of the U.S. "special war" and neo-colonialism in Laos and achievement of a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, united and prosperous Laos.

The Congress presidium consisted of Prince Souphanouvong, Chairman, Sithon Kommadam and Phaydang, Vice-Chairmen, Phoumi Vongvichit, Secretary General of the C.C. of the Lao Patriotic Front, and other C.C. members of the Front.

Khamsouk Keola and other representatives of the Lao Patriotic Neutralist Forces attended as guests.

On behalf of the C.C. of the Lao Patriotic Front, Prince Souphanouvong delivered an important political report on the Lao situation and the great successes won by the Lao people and armed forces in the fight against the U.S. imperialists and against the rightist forces.

"Over the past 4 years", Prince Souphanouvong said, "pursuing the correct line of resistance to the U.S. special war in Laos defined by the 2nd National Congress (1964), the Lao patriotic forces and people have won great victories in all fields, bringing about great changes in favour of their struggle. At the same time, the tremendous achievements of the revolutionary struggle of the world's peoples, the Vietnamese people in particular, have greatly influenced the Lao situation".

Concerning U.S. schemes in Laos, Prince Souphanouvong said:

"With a view to making Laos a neo-colony and a base for war provocations, the U.S. imperialists have been waging a special war against the Lao people. They have challenged the 1954 and 1962 Geneva Agreements, undermined the Government they have themselves recognized and used Prince Souvanna Phouma and the clique of traitors in Laos to create a puppet administration which serves as their main tool for aggression against our country".

"In this 'special war', Prince Souphanouvong continued, "the U.S. imperialists have already lost more than 100,000 men and more than 800 aircraft, and their scheme to nibble at the liberated zones, especially as the province of Xieng Khoang, along Highway N°9 and at the Nam Bac area, has failed bitterly".

Prince Souphanouvong brought out the great successes obtained during the 1967-1968 dry season during which the patriotic armed forces put nearly 17,000 enemy troops out of action, shot down or destroyed on the ground more than 100 U.S. aircraft and liberated 180,000 civilians.

Dealing with the progress made in the liberated areas, Prince Souphanouvong said:

"All youth, women and peasant as well as Lao Patriotic Front organisations have been further consolidated day by day.

"During the past 4 years, the alliance between the L.P.F. and the Patriotic Neutralist Forces has been strengthened. The national front

(Continued page 7)

News from LAOS

Prince Souphanouvong Reports to Lao Patriotic Front 3rd National Confab

D.R.V.N. FOREIGN MINISTRY CONDEMNS U.S.—PUPPET AIR RAIDS ON CAMBODIA

ON November 14, the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam made public the following statement on the new air attacks conducted by the U.S. and the Saigon puppet regime against Cambodia's territory:

"On Nov. 6, 1968, 3 helicopters of the U.S. and the Saigon puppet administration savagely strafed Daung village, Svayrieng province, of Cambodia. On the same day, to other U.S. and South Viet Nam helicopters violated the airspace of Snoul region, Kratie province.

"A man got down from one of those helicopters with the apparent intention of holding up a lorry of the Khmer Public Works Service. The people onboard then came under rocket fire.

"Those U.S.-puppet assaults have caused 26 victims among the Khmer civilians.

"Since the end of June, 1968, the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen in Saigon have committed numerous violations of the territory of the Kingdom of Cambodia, in Svay A Ngong, Vat Prasad and other provinces, numerous Khmer civilians were killed.

"The Nov. 6 acts of aggression once again showed to the world public opinion the U.S. and its henchmen's persistence in refusing to recognize the present borders of the Kingdom of Cambodia and in violating her territory and inflicting losses of life on Khmer civilians in the border regions. It is clear that they have violated in the crudest way the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Cambodia and all international laws, in defiance of the world's progressive opinion.

"The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Vietnamese people strongly condemn these aggressive acts of the U.S. and their Saigon henchmen against the Kingdom of Cambodia.

"The D.R.V.N Government fully supports the legitimate position of the Royal Government of Cambodia as exp unded in its Nov.9, 1968 statement and her sacred right to take all necessary measures to ensure the security of the Khmer people in the border regions.

"The D.R.V.N Government and the Vietnamese people firmly demand that the U.S. stop forthwith its criminal acts against the Khmer people. The U.S. must bear full responsibility for the consequences arising therefrom.

"The D.R.V.N Government firmly believes that the legitimate position of the Royal Government of Cambodia will enlist the sympathy and strong support of the peace- and justice-loving governments and peoples in the world.

"All the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen's attempts to impair the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia are doomed to bitter failure."

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH VENEZUELAN PEOPLE (NOV. 21)

THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE'S JUST STRUGGLE WILL TRIUMPH

ON the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Venezuelan people (Nov.21), the daily *Nhan Dan*, central organ of the Viet Nam Workers' Party has carried an article warmly greeting the day.

After recalling the barbarous repressive actions taken by the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen against the Venezuelan people, the paper attached great importance to the successes gained by the people of Venezuela in their political and armed struggle to regain independence and freedom. The article stressed:

"The just struggle of the Venezuelan people against the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys has been contributing positively to the upsurge of the national liberation movement in Latin America and the struggle of all people on the globe for national independence, peace, democracy and social progress. Together with other progressive peoples in the world, the Vietnamese people express their full support to the Venezuelan people's just struggle.

"There is no doubt that the Venezuelan people will regain their genuine independence and freedom".

IN THE UNITED STATES

U.S. YOUTHS AND SERVICEMEN OPPOSE U.S. AGGRESSION IN VIET NAM

ACCORDING to foreign sources, students of the University of Colorado on Nov.14 held a protest demonstration against the activities at the University by recruiting agents of *Dow* Chemical company which makes napalm for the war in Viet Nam. Police arrested 15 young boys and girls who barricaded themselves in a laboratory.

The same sources reported that Jack Robinson, a Marine from the Navy base of Campendlton (California) had fasted for more than 15 day in protest against the war in Viet Nam.

In July last, Rabinson and 8 mates of his declared their objection to service in the U.S. armed forces of aggression and demanded their discharge. After Robinson had been deserted the base, he was sentenced by a military court to 6 months' hard labour.

However, after 6 months of detention, he was turned to the Marine corps to be sent to Viet Nam. In protest against this decision, he went on a hunger strike which has been on more than 2 weeks. On Oct.27 last, his birthday. 15 other Marines from the same base joined in the fast.

U.S. BOMBING HALT SET TONGUES WAGING IN HUE

FOR a couple of weeks now Hue has been in a political effervescence. The men in the street showed an unveiled enthusiasm and openly talked of U.S. failure which was illustrated by its unconditional bombing halt on the whole territory of North Viet Nam. People also publicly castigated the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet clique's obstinate policy of war and refusal to send representatives to the Paris conference.

In defiance of puppet ban and threats, in many places people staged political teachins where they discussed the restoration of peace and the end of the war, demanded that the Saigon administration quickly enter into talks with the National Front for Liberation, urged overthrow of the Thieu-Ky-Huong war cabinet and formation of a peace cabinet. At public places like pagodas, market places, schools, cafes and busy streets, people gathered in small groups and circulated the latest news they had heard over the Giai Phong Radio or the Voice of Viet Nam Radio.

On learning that the U.S. had been forced to halt unconditionally its bombardments in North Viet Nam, an electrician burst into cheers amid a crowd at a sideline restaurant in Gia Hoi quarter: "This is really an occasion for a feat to celebrate the great victory of our Northern folks!" Mrs. N. in Bach Dang Street stood up and clapped her hands when she was told that the NFL had appointed Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh as its representative to the preparatory meetings of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

The Hue townsfolks also overtly discussed the five points of the NFL, and spoke highly of the leading role of the Front. Professor L. of the Faculty of Letters said to his students: "The Americans and Saigon have been telling us that the NFL is bellicose and the enemy of peace. Now we can see who is bellicose and fears peace. The NFL's proposed political solution to the South Viet Nam question is perfectly reasonable with the obtaining situation in the country. I find it quite sensible. What is more, they are in a position to translate it into reality."

In the past few days, winter has set in and the cafes and restaurants in Hue have been attracting more patrons than usual. At the Lac Son cafe, many customers sat out until very late and arguments about latest events dragged on and on. An civil servant of the puppet city administration turned to a warrant officer of the puppet army:

"What is the news today, man?"

"There is plenty of it. Saigon and Washington are now quarrelling openly. Mr. Thieu said he would fight the Communists through and would not send anyone to Paris. Mrs. Binh, representative of the NFL, is having a busy day in France..."

After sipping his coffee, the clerk again asked the military, this time more discreetly:

"Well, can you tell me what we must do?"

As far as we are concerned we are going to quit. Do you know that scores of the new recruits at Phu Bai have been deserting every day?"

"You know," the clerk said confidently, "the most reactionary elements in my office were utterly confounded by the news that the Americans had agreed to talk with the NFL. Meanwhile, the rest of the personnel gathered in small groups to discuss the policies of the front regarding the functionnaries and soldiers of the Saigon administration in Hue and South Viet Nam as a whole."

MILITARY OPERATIONS

(Continued from page 8)

BEN TRE, REAL HECATOMB OF U.S. RIVERINE FORCES

FOLLOWING the disaster on the Mekong on Nov. 1 when 18 vessels of the floating base of the U.S. 117th River Assault Brigade were sunk or burnt by the P.L.A.F., the latter have just achieved new, big successes in this type of warfare.

On Nov. 9, at 10km south east of Ben Tre city, on Giong Trom river famous for the number of enemy vessels sunk or damaged by the patriots, the latter intercepted a 16-vessel convoy, sinking 4 and burning 7 others.

Next day, attacking enemy reinforcements, they sank 4 more vessels 7km southeast of Ben Tre. In their retreat to Ben Tre, the survivors were caught in an ambush and lost 2 more vessels sunk and 3 others burnt.

On Nov. 15, a large force composed of 7 units comprising in all 7 big ships and 200 smaller vessels moved into position on Ham Luong river, an arm of the Mekong which cuts through Ben Tre province. At about 22 hours, one of these groups was the target of a lightning attack which left 16 vessels sunk (including a 250-metre vessel). More than 500 G.I's of the U.S. 9th infantry Division were killed or wounded in this disaster. The battle count for these 3 days put enemy losses at 26 vessels sunk, 10 others burnt and more than 1,000 G.I's killed or wounded. Together with the results on Nov. 1, these figures ran to 54 vessels sunk or burnt and more than 1,700 adversaries put out of action.

On the night of Nov.15 to Nov.16, a U.S. 440-ton warship anchored at the wharf near My Tho city, was sunk by a mine.

IN THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS: U.S. POST STORMED NEAR PLEIKU AND ANOTHER NEAR KONTUM.

GIAI Phong Press Agency reported that on Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. the P.L.A.F. broke through barbed wire entanglements and minefields and got past watch-towers to make a deep thrust into the Thanh An post (22 km south west of Pleiku) without the knowledge of the enemy. Caught unawares, the garrison was wiped out within minutes. The patriots seized control of the terrain after having killed 0f wounded 80 G.I.'s, and destroyed 17 vehicles including 5 tanks, 2 105-mm howitzers and 6 blockhouses.

On Nov.12, another puppet post barely 1 km northwest of Kontum received a similar blow.

On the night of Nov.12, a U.S. post near Dak Soc, 50 km west-southwest of Pleiku, was pounded and several of its blockhouses were destroyed while many defenders killed or wounded. On the morning of Nov.13, a helicopter sent in to pick up the dead was destroyed by Liberation gunners. In the afternoon, the patriots resumed the shelling: 15 armoured cars, 5 105mm howitzers and 1 helicopter were destroyed or set ablaze. Next day, a massive air intervention cost the enemy many engines knocked out (11 by a single unit of the P.L.A.F.) without being able to repulse the attackers who further destroyed their 105mm howitzers and blew up an ammo dump.

Between Nov. 10 and Nov. 13, a series of ambushes of Highway No 19 linking Pleiku to Qui Nhon cost the U.S. puppets 21 vehicles (6 armoured) destroyed, 3 platoons wiped out and 1 helicopter shot down.

Artillery shells were slammed by the P.L.A.F. into many targets, including the An Tuc township (on Nov. 11 with 7 petrol tanks of 80 metres long and to metres deep each destroyed by fire) the Buon Ma Thuot airfield (on Nov. 10 and Nov. 14) the C.P. of the 5th Div. of Giong Duc military sector at Gia Nghia (22okm northeast of Saigon on the night of Nov. 18).

SAIGON BUDDHIST CIRCLES DEMAND PEACE AND SUPPORT N.F.L.'s STAND

MORE than 400 Buddhist believers on November 14 held a meeting at the An Quang Pagoda in the heart of Saigon to demand restoration of peace and settlement of Viet Nam's internal affairs by Vietnamese themselves without foreign interference, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported.

The same source reported that these last days patriotic Buddhist circles in Saigon have been openly demanding that the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique take part in the Paris conference, and voicing their support for the stand of the National Front for Liberation on a political solution to the Viet Nam problem.

The campaign for the same objectives is spreading among Buddhist circles, as well as other religious sects such as the Cao Dai and Hoa Hao.

France Soir correspondent in Saigon recently reported that meetings and teach-ins had been held over the past three weeks at many pagodas in South Viet Nam with the attendance of large numbers of Buddhists. The discussions were keenly followed by millions of Buddhist believers, the paper said.

To drive the aggressors...

(Continued from page 1)

National Front for Liberation, without foreign interference.

The South Vietnamese people and the N.F.L. fully support the November 16 declaration of the Spokesman of the D.R.V.N. Foreign Ministry and affirm that so long as the American imperialists pursue their war of aggression in Viet Nam our people will continue fighting until they are driven out of our country. Nothing can prevent our people from winning complete victory over the aggressors. The best way for the U.S. to get out of the war in Viet Nam, which costs it so heavily in human lives and material resources, and to avoid even more serious defeats is to accept the five points of the N.F.L., the four points of the Government of the D.R.V.N., and to engage in serious talks with the D.R.V.N. and the N.F.L.

Maintaining its serious attitude and showing good will, the South Viet Nam N.F.L. has agreed to participate in the Paris conference on Viet Nam as an independent party and on an equal footing with the other parties and with full competence to settle all questions concerning South Viet Nam.

Awed by the victories of the Vietnamese people, the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration has put forward one formula after another aimed at blocking the opening of the quadripartite conference. In so doing, it has bared its obstinate and reactionary nature and will only attract even bitterer hatred from the Vietnamese people and sharper criticisms from the world peoples. As every one knows, the Saigon puppet administration is made up of valets of the U.S.A.; it can absolutely not stand in the way of a political solution to the Viet Nam problem, if the U.S.A. really desires peace. Consequently the U.S.A. is to blame for the delay in quadripartite conference.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

News from Laos

(Continued from page 6)

against U.S. imperialism has been constantly broadened, embracing various sections of the population, nationalities and religions.

"In agricultural production, hydraulic works have been developed and farming techniques applied in a creative manner in many localities. Another task of great significance has been to persuade the montagnards to abandon their "rays" (t) and do the farming in flat ricefields. In this respect, initial successes have been obtained in many areas.

"In education, more than 40,000 people are attending school in the liberated zone. Each province and a number of districts have their own secondary schools. A number of provinces have opened middle-level teachers' training schools. In our 3-year plan (1968 - 1970) we have contemplated the building of higher learning establishments, and the use of the Lao language as teaching medium in all classes, from primary schools to colleges".

Referring to the situation of the enemy, Prince Souphanouvong said:

"The true nature of the U.S. aggressors and the traitors has been exposed before the Lao people and the world's peoples. The contradictions in the enemy ranks, between the U.S. masters and their servants, and between these themselves, have become so sharp that mistrust runs overtly between masters and servants and that conflicts and plots to get rid of one another have been rampant among the valets themselves. The Vientiane puppet administration and national assembly have been many times re-organised and reshuffled, without being able to save their prestige. As for Prince Souvanna Phouma, his credit has been on the wane since he embarked on the path of betrayal of national interests.

"At present the enemy is confronted with great difficulties due to economic crisis, devaluation of the "kip" (Lao currency) and price rises, and the ever increasing hardships of the people and public servants, soldiers and policemen of the puppet administration. In spite of the U.S. and its allies' aid, the Vientiane administration is incapable of filling the gap in its war budget".

"The enemy remains obstinate. He continues to intensify the war. However, faced with this situation", Prince Souphanouvong pointed out, "he will only meet with still heavier defeats."

(t) *Ricefields reclaimed from mountain sides.*

ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

P.L.A.F. artillery women

PEOPLE'S COUNCILS AND PEOPLE'S COMMITTEES ELECTED IN QUANG DA PROVINCE

In the last few months, the people of Quang Da province (Northern part of the former province of Quang Nam and Da Nang city, ex-Tourane) have turned out in full numbers to elect People's Councils and People's Committees (administrative committees) at various levels, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported.

By Oct. 31, 1968, elections had been completed in two-thirds of the villages, 4 delta districts, 3 up-land districts and the Hoi An urban centre as well as at provincial level.

The Provincial People's Council comprises 21 members, among them 2 army heroes, 4 representatives of ethnic minorities and 2 women. The People's Committee consists of 9 members, including a representative of ethnic minorities and a woman. This organ has held its first session at which an appeal has been launched, calling on the local people to strengthen their unity, assure the defence of revolutionary power and serve the front even more actively so as to foil all manoeuvres of the U.S. aggressors and win more important victories in the 1968-1969 Winter-Spring campaign.

Military Operations

THE activities of the P.L.A.F. flared up again in the period from Nov. 7 to Nov. 17 with important victories in the **Da Nang**, **Tay Ninh** and **Ben Tre** areas and in the **Western Highlands**.

The big U.S. base and the military port, several enemy installations there, as well as in the provincial capitals of Hoi An and Tam Ky and many U.S.-puppet positions between **Da Nang** and **Chu Lai** came under attack. The H.Q. of the U.S. 198th brigade and 2 other importants C.P. were stormed and more than 500 G.I's put out of action near Chu Lai on the night of Nov. 16. The attacks of the patriots continued without let-up at least until Nov.20 in this sector.

In Tay Ninh province, Northwest of Saigon, the enemy received a staggering blow at Soc Con Trang : 7 companies destroyed or decimated, mostly G.I's of the *First Air Cavalry*, 24 armoured cars and 15 heavy cannons and mortars destroyed and 18 planes and helicopters shot down.

In the Mekong Delta, **Ben Tre** province has become a real graveyard for the U.S. riverine forces. In 3 days (Nov.9, 10 and 15) the PLAF sank or burnt 36 vessels and put more than 1,000 G.I's out of action. In the **Western Highlands**, the patriots assaulted 2 enemy posts, completely destroying their garrison. In 2 weeks, they put 400 adversaries out of action, destroyed 36 tanks and armoured cars, brought down or destroyed 39 planes and helicopters (20 in Kontum province, 14 in GiaLai-Pleiku and 2 during the shelling of Buon Me Thuot airfield).

Between **Saigon** and the sea, 7 vessels including 3 with a displacement from 10,000 to 20,000 tons each, were damaged by the P.L.A.F. shells.

The hunt for enemy planes and choppers was particularly fruitful : 45 aircraft knocked down between Nov. 11 and Nov. 15.

BIG P.L.A.F. SUCCESSES IN THE DA NANG — CHU LAI SECTOR

ON the night of Nov. 16 to Nov. 17, the P.L.A.F. made a concerted attack on a series of targets in an area stretching over 100 kilometres or more, from Clouds Pass between Hue and Da Nang to Chu Lai, north of Quang Ngai, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported.

In the Da Nang sector, about a dozen enemy positions in the city were attacked either by P.L.A.F. infantrymen or by artillerymen. The targets included the city police H.Q., several district police stations, the local radio station and the military port... In the vicinity of the city, the U.S. base, known as the biggest in Southeast Asia, to the West of Da Nang, the Son Tra wharves on the northern fringe of the city and an artillery position defending Da Nang were heavily pounded. At 24 km to the southwest, Hoi An city, the capital of Quang Nam province where Da Nam is located, as well as 7 district towns, a puppet battalion C.P. and U.S. marine encampments, all lying within a radius of 40km from Da Nang, were raided or pounded. At Clouds Pass, guerillas cut the highway and thus sealed off Da Nang from the Northern sector. A full-scale alert was proclaimed in Da Nang.

In **Tam Ky** which has become a provincial capital 60 km south-south-east of Da Nang, the H.Q. of the Americal Division and 3 other enemy positions came under an artillery barrage and turned into a sea of flames.

Meanwhile, at 25km further southeast, around the U.S. **Chu Lai** base, big successes were obtained by the patriots. The latter attacked in force the major position of **Hoa Vang** where the H.Q. of the U.S. 196th Brigade was established. After 15 minutes of fighting, they broke through the enemy defence perimeter and completely destroyed the H.Q. area and the compound of an infantry unit, killing or wounding more than 250 GI's, among them at least 80 officers of the Brigade H.Q., destroying 32 troop houses, 7 blockhouses and 8 casemates. Two other U.S. positions in this sector also were attacked. At **Nui Mieu** and **Ho Giang**, 2 U.S. battalion CP's were stormed, 200 GI's put out of action and many buildings and a large quantity of material destroyed.

In co-ordination with the armed forces, the population of these 2 provinces turned out to hunt down and neutralize the agents of the enemy, dismantle existing strategic hamlets and sabotage communication lines.

All told, on the night of Nov. 16, in the Chu Lai sector, the P.L.A.F. razed to the ground the H.Q. of the U.S. 196th airborne brigade and 2 U.S. battalion CP's, put 500 GI's out of action and destroyed 23 blockhouses, 18 casemates, 91 barracks, 5 warehouses, 5 pieces of artillery and 2 tanks.

Further South, also on the night of Nov. 16, artillery fire was unleashed against **Quang Ngai** airfield and U.S. positions in this city. On the following night, as reported by Western news agencies, at least 45 U.S.-puppet positions came under fire in the region between Quang Ngai and Hue, among them a U.S. logistic base north of Da Nang, a puppet garrison 8km west of **Hoi An** and South Korean mercenaries South of Quang Ngai.

On the night of Nov. 18, a puppet military post 42km northwest of Quang Ngai city was taken.

On the night of Nov. 19, the P.L.A.F. went into action again in the Da Nang sector and the neighbouring provinces to the south : Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh and Phu Yen. Liberation gunners are reported to have pounded that night several enemy positions near Da Nang, including the H.Q. of the U.S. marine forces in South Viet Nam, the U.S. Navy Support base and the Nuoc Man military base. According to Western news agencies, from 15 to 30 big gun shells hit each of these targets and triggered a big fire at a munition and bomb depot.

Several enemy positions and the Quang Ngai city airfield, 120 km south south-east of Da Nang, were attacked by Liberation infantrymen and artillerymen. In addition, a Regiment CP, the encampments of a puppet battalion and a puppet armoured squadron, 2 military posts and 2 district towns were assaulted, several bridges including a several hundred-metre long one sabotaged, and many strategic hamlets dismantled in this province.

HEAVY LOSSES INFLICTED ON FIRST AIR CAVALRY IN TAY NINH PROVINCE AND NORTH OF SAIGON

GIAI Phong Press Agency has just announced a big success of the P.L.A.F. at Soc Con Trang, a village 50 km northeast of Tay Ninh city and 95 km north-northwest of Saigon. This came on the night of Nov. 13. The U.S. command had established there an entrenched position held by a mixed force composed of "flying horsemen" of the *First Cavalry Division* (Air Mobile) and puppet Rangers. The garrison comprising infantry, artillery and armoured forces was protected by a thick network of barbed wire entanglements and prefabricated concrete bunkers.

The attack of the patriots began at 22h30 on Nov. 13 with a violent artillery barrage which literally paralysed the enemy defence. After an hour of fighting, the attacking forces destroyed the C.P. of the camp, a motorised company, 2 companies and one platoon of U.S. artillerymen and 2 companies of puppet Ranger Battallion 36. A 3rd puppet battalion suffered heavy losses. 24 armoured cars and 15 heavy cannons and mortars were destroyed, 14 planes and helicopters put down and a large quantity of arms, ammunition and military equipment seized.

On Nov. 14, firing at enemy aircraft sent in to remove the dead and wounded, Liberation gunners destroyed on the ground 4 helicopters, including 2 "flying cranes."

On the night of Nov. 15, other elements of the First Cavalry took serious casualties during an attack by the patriots 40km north of Tay Ninh.

Next morning, the latter pounded the C.P. of Binh Long sector in **Hon Quan** city, a provincial capital 95 km north of Saigon. On the night of Nov. 19, it was the turn of the **Phuoc Binh** subsector (40km east-northeast of Hon Quan). Meanwhile, the Big Red One (U.S. 1st Infantry Division) was engaged 38km north of Saigon.

Important successes were obtained during attacks on enemy vessels on the Saigon shipping channel. On Nov. 1, 5, 8, 11 and 18, 7 vessels including 3 with a displacement of 20,000, 12,000 and 10,000 tons respectively were damaged by the patriots' projectiles. The 12,183-ton oil tanker, hit on Nov. 18 at a point 21km south east of Saigon, would be, according to Western news agencies, the 42 nd military transport damaged by the patriots on **Long Tau** river since the beginning of this year.

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